

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03518 112358Z

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ACTION EA-09

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: SHOEMAKER JUAN ADRIANO

REF: A) STATE 56382, B) MANILA 3273, C) MANILA 2368

1. AP (ZEITLIN) REPORTS MARCH 11 FORTY-SEVEN ROMAN CATHOLIC NUNS AND FORTY PROTESTANT PASTORS SIGNED OPEN LETTER MARCH 10 URGING PRESIDENT MARCOS TO ORDER FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF JUAN ADRIANO. LETTER REPORTEDLY QUESTIONS CONSTABULARY STATEMENT THAT ADRIANO'S SON AND A NEIGHBOR TESTIFIED ADRIANO DID NOT PROCEED TO CAMP CRAME IN COMPANY OF PC WHO DELIVERED SUMMONS. LETTER SAID BOTH CLAIM THEY DID NOT KNOW HOW ADRIANO STARTED OFF FOR CRAME. LETTER ALSO NOTED ADRIANO HAD NO PREVIOUS RECORD OF HEART AILMENTS AND ASKED INVESTIGATION TO EXPLAIN BRUISES ON BODY WHEN FOUND.

2. ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT WHICH APPEARED IN MARCH 7 PACIFIC STARS & STRIPES (REFTEL B) WAS UPI NOT AP ACCOUNT. IT MERELY REITERATED EARLIER ZEITLIN AP STORY.

3. COMMENT: AP HAS CERTAINLY NOT LET STORY DIE. WITH THINGS RELATIVELY QUIET ON MOST FRONTS, ACTIVIST CLERICS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THEY HAVE NEW ISSUE WITH WHICH TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT. WE SHALL CONTINUE REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS SO
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DEPARTMENT WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO RESPOND TO

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.

4. IT IS RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT AP FILIPINO
EMPLOYEE ATTENDED GENERAL RAMO'S BRIEFING ON
MARCH 15--BRIEFING INTENDED PRIMARILY TO REBUTT
EARLIER ZEITLIN CHARGES (REFTEL C)--AND THAT HE
FILED STORY TO NEW YORK BUT SO FAR THERE HAS
BEEN NO PLAYBACK HERE. THIS HAS PROBABLY
INCREASED FURTHER ZEITLIN'S REPUTATION AS LEAST
FAVORITE FOREIGN JOURNALIST IN THE PHILIPPINES.
SULLIVAN

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